

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8318

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: PERON MEETS WITH OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: BA-7409 OF NOV 21, 1972

1. SUMMARY: PERON YESTERDAY MET WITH WIDE SPECTRUM OF LEADERS OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS. AS UCR LEADER BALBIN PUT IT UPON EMERGING FROM MEETING, FACT THAT MEETING WAS HELD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING THAT WAS SAID DURING ITS COURSE. MEETING'S MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE IS AS SIGNAL OF CONTINUED EFFORT TO MOVE TOWARD FORMATION OF BROAD POLITICAL CONSENSUS IN ARGENTINA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ACT COMMEMORATING LAST YEAR'S MEETING OF POLITICAL PARTIES AT NINO RESTAURANT JUST AFTER PERON'S FIRST RETURN (SEE BA-7409 OF NOV 21, 1972), PERON YESTERDAY (NOV 13) RECEIVED SOME 52 LEADERS REPRESENTING 31 POLITICAL PARTIES, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS. INCLUDED WERE VIRTUALLY ALL NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTIES (WITH EXCEPTION OF CORAL'S PST, GHIOLDI'S PSD, MANRIQUISTAS AND NUEVA FUERZA), LABOR (IN FORM OF CGT AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS), AND BUSINESS (REPRESENTED BY JULIO BRONER OF CGE).

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3. PERON'S WELCOMING REMARKS WERE MOST STATESMANLIKE AND EMPHASIZED NEED FOR ALL PARTIES AND SECTORS TO WORK TOGETHER. PERON INDICATED IT WAS NOT A MATTER OF PERONISTS REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS OPPOSITION; IN FACT, ALL WERE IN SAME BOAT. ALL SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARGENTINA'S FUTURE. OFFICE HAS BEEN SET UP IN CASA ROSADA THROUGH WHICH ALL PARTIES AND SECORS WOULD HAVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT. PERON REITERATED THAT SEC GEN OF PRESIDENCY VICENTE SOLANO LIMA HAD SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIAISON WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES. FOR INPUT IN DECISION MAKING PROCESS, PERON SAID IN EFFECT, JUST GIVE LIMA A CALL.

4. FOLLOWING MEETING, UCR LEADER BALBIN DESCRIBED IT AS POSITIVE STEP AND SAID WAY IN WHICH PERON CONDUCTING GOVERNMENT GENERALLY CORRESPONDED TO COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS ACHIEVED BY VARIOUS PARTIES IN WAKE OF NINO MEETING LAST YEAR. BALBIN EMPHASIZED THAT UCR WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AND WOULD NOT PLACE STONES IN GOVERNMENT'S PATH.

5. COMMENT: MEETING IS SIGNIFICANT AS REAFFIRMATION OF RECOGNITION OF NEED FOR KIND OF POLITICAL CONSENSUS ARGENTINA HAS NEVER ENJOYED. WITH MOST OTHER PARTIES, LABOR, MILITARY AND EVEN SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS ELEMENTS NOW IN GENERAL AGREEMENT AND DISPOSED TO COOPERATE, PERON'S MAJOR PROBLEM, IRONICALLY, STEMS NOT FROM "OPPOSITION" BUT FROM DIVISIONS WITHIN HIS OWN MOVEMENT.

6. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT DESPITE LEFT-RIGHT CONFLICT WITHIN HIS MOVEMENT AND PERON'S GENERAL FAVORITISM TOWARD LATTER ELEMENT, NON-PERONIST LEFT WAS MUCH IN EVIDENCE AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING. ABELARDO RAMOS REPRESENTED FIP AND THERE WERE TWO REPS OF COMMUNIST PARTY. OBVIOUSLY, WHATEVER THE SITUATION WITHIN PERONIST MOVEMENT, PERON WISHES TO MAINTAIN APPEARANCE OF APPEALING TO WHOLE POLITICAL SPECTRUM ON NATIONAL LEVEL.

7. IMPORTANT TO NOTE, TOO, THAT SOLANO LIMA'S POSITION WAS STRENGTHENED BY BIPARTISAN NATURE OF MEETING AND BY PERON'S EMPHASIS ON HIS ROLE AS COORDINATOR WITH OTHER PARTIES. SOURCES CLOSE TO LIMA INSIST THAT MEETING REPRESENTS FIRST STEP TOWARD MULTI-PARTY GOVERNMENT INCLUDING UCR. DOUBTLESS
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LIMA HOPES RPT HOPES THAT IS WHAT IT REPRESENTS, AND HIS HOPES MAY NOT BE FUTILE. PERON ALSO MAY WISH TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF BROADER BASED COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE, HOWEVER, MUST HAVE SUPPORT OF HIS OWN PARTY IN SUCH A MOVE AND THAT WILL REQUIRE A CAREFUL PREPARATION AND SKILLFUL MANEUVERING.
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